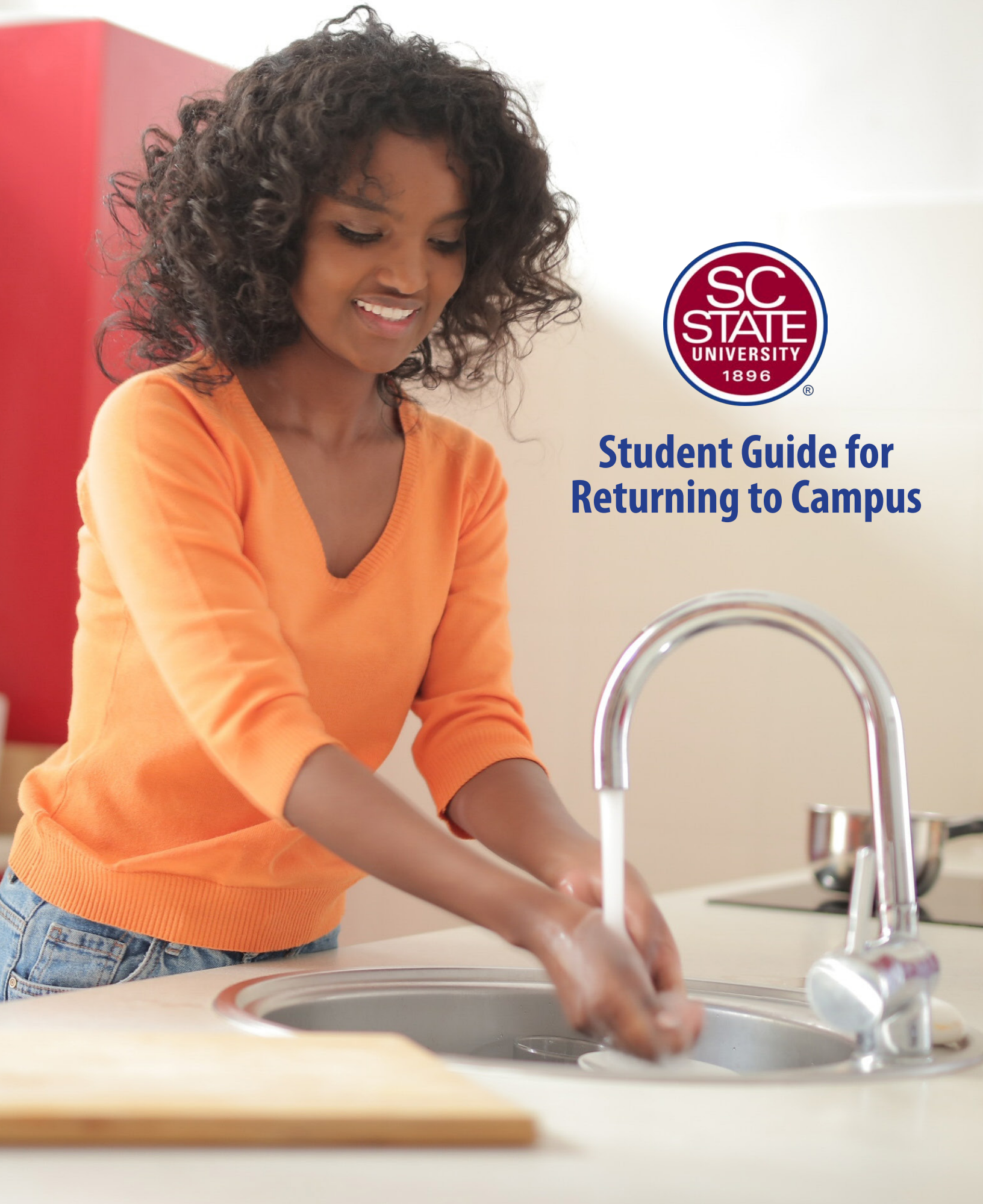




Student Guide for Returning to Campus





SOUTH CAROLINA
UNIVERSITY



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Guiding Principles

South Carolina State University's practices and protocols for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic will be rooted in safety for students, faculty, staff, and the public who visit the campus. The primary goals of the response to the pandemic are the health and safety of the University community and the continuation of the Mission of the institution.

This document is designed to answer frequently asked questions concerning the return of students to campus. SC State's practices also follow recommendations from the State and Federal Government, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the advice and guidance of the Department of Health and Environmental Control. These guidelines are subject to change as the knowledge and understanding of the COVID-19 virus continue to evolve, and as more information becomes available.



Return to the Campus

Campus Expectations & Guidelines

All SC State students are expected to fully comply with the practices, protocols, and guidelines outlined in this document as part of SC State Student Expectations and Guidelines for returning to campus. ***Failure to do so may result in citations and/or judicial sanctions up to and including suspension or expulsion.*** Moreover, all students must carry their university identification card at all times and it must be displayed upon entrance to campus.

Statement of College Capacity to Provide Care

Residence halls are not equipped with medical equipment, nor are the residence halls designed to serve as urgent care or other medical facilities. Therefore, we have limited capacity to provide care. The primary purpose of creating a quarantine/isolation space on campus is to support those students who are asymptomatic or exhibit very mild symptoms, and to limit the spread of COVID 19. Should Brooks Health Center or any other medical provider recommend regular or constant monitoring of a student due to elevated symptoms, families will be expected to make plans for their student that will include removing the student from campus. The University cannot guarantee the health of students who exhibit serious symptoms of illness. It is critical that students provide the University with the most current emergency contact information to be used should a student's health deteriorate.

Testing Protocols (Pre and Post Arrival)

- Students must be free of any symptoms potentially related to COVID-19 and upload ***negative*** test results seven days prior to returning to campus for fall, 2021. Residential students that arrive on campus without submitting negative test results within the required timeframe will ***“not”*** be allowed to check into the residence halls.
 - New students (check-in August 12, 2021) should not test earlier than ***August 5, 2021.***
 - Returning students (check-in August 13, 2021) should ***not*** test earlier than ***August 6, 2021.***
- Students that test positive while on campus will be directed to the isolation hall for ten days. During this time:
 - students will be prohibited from leaving the isolation hall
 - meals will be delivered to them
 - medical staff will provide assistance when needed
 - students that refuse to move to the isolation hall will be subject to judicial sanctions; up to and including suspension or expulsion
- Testing will be available on campus Monday through Friday
- Residential students are required to test weekly

Health & Safety Guidance

Personal Safety Practices

- A. **Face masks/Cloth coverings:** Regardless of vaccination status, face coverings are **required for all students inside all campus buildings** except in residence hall rooms, dining hall facilities and outdoors. Cloth masks are being procured by the University and will be distributed to all students. Students have the option to wear their own masks or cloth face coverings, provided it covers the nose and mouth fully. Appropriate use of face masks or coverings is critical in minimizing risk to others. Students should adhere to the following when wearing face masks/cloth coverings:
- B. **Personal hygiene** - what you can do to stop the spread of viruses like coronavirus and the flu:
- Cover your mouth when you cough and sneeze.
 - Avoid touching your face.
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
 - Do not attend class if you are sick. Contact Brooks Health Center
- C. **Handwashing:** Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public place or after blowing your nose, coughing, sneezing, or touching your face. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, and wash your hands after touching your face.
- D. **Social Distancing:** Keeping space between you and others is one of the best tools we have to avoid being exposed to the COVID-19 virus and slowing its spread. Since people can spread the virus before they know they are sick. Social distancing is important for everyone, especially to help protect people who are at higher risk of getting very sick. Students on campus should follow these social distancing practices:
- Stay at least 3 feet (about two arms' length) from other people at all times.
 - Do not gather in groups in common areas, restrooms, or hallways. *The use of restrooms in classroom/office buildings or in residence halls should be staggered when operationally feasible and limited based on size to ensure at least 3 feet distance between individuals.*
 - The social distance between floors of buildings and in elevators. *Students who are physically able are encouraged to use the stairwells. If the building has more than one stairway, consider designating one for ascending and one for descending to minimize students crossing paths in close proximity of one another. If using the elevator, students are encouraged to wear face-covering and no more than two individuals should occupy an elevator at one time.*

Covid-19 Vaccine

While SC State will not require students to have the COVID-19 vaccine, the administration strongly encourages all students to get vaccinated for their own safety and to decrease risk to the campus community and spread of disease throughout the academic year. For students who have completed full vaccination, please upload your vaccine record into the Brooks Health Center Portal. In addition, the university will offer free vaccination clinics on campus in the coming weeks for students, employees and the public, two of which are already scheduled:

- Saturday, Aug. 14 – Pfizer – Smith Hammond Middleton Gymnasium, 10a.m.-4 p.m.
- Friday, August 20 – Pfizer & J&J, - KW Green Student Center, 10am -3pm

Additional information about where vaccines are available in South Carolina can be found at vaxlocator.dhec.sc.gov.



Residence Life and Housing Guidelines

Residence Life and Housing guidelines have been established to provide on-campus housing options for students to mitigate the risk of contracting and transmitting all variants of the novel coronavirus while living in the residence halls.

- The university will utilize exclusive residence halls to isolate students who test positive for the COVID-19 virus.
- Students that leave the isolation hall prior to being released by health center staff, will be sanctioned unless they sign the COVID-19 Residence Life Sign-Out Form
- Students living in the residence halls will not be allowed to have off-campus guests.

Residential students will be required to test for COVID-19 weekly.

Dining and Food Service Guidelines

We are excited to welcome students back into our newly renovated dining facilities in a safe and healthy manner. We are implementing a number of safety measures to keep both students and staff safe. While we know this will create a different dining experience for students, we are committed to public health safety for the SC State community. We are implementing the following measures to increase public health safety while continuing to serve students:

- Installation of Plexiglas dividers to separate students and foodservice staff.
- A “pick up and go” option has been added to compensate for social distancing.
- Removal of all self-service areas and adding attendants for salad bars.
- Guidance for physical distancing in all lines and spaces.
- Installation of hand-sanitizer dispensers throughout all dining facilities at register stands and entry points.
- Regular cleaning of high-touch areas, including tables and chairs after each seating.
- All local, state and governmental health guidelines will be followed.





Facilities

Foot traffic and gatherings in University facilities and common spaces will be limited through reduced facility entrances and visitor restrictions. Signage will be posted to promote public health reminders regarding physical distancing and traffic flow. Students are expected to adhere to and follow all signage postings and floor markings when designated.

Student Center

The KW Greene Student Center will adhere to CDC guidelines for social and physical distancing when operating for the fall semester. Masks and/or face coverings are required inside all buildings.

BOWLING ALLEY

Student Center Bowling Alley will be available for use by all students, while non-university guests must reserve the venue in advance (guest rates apply).

FITNESS CENTER

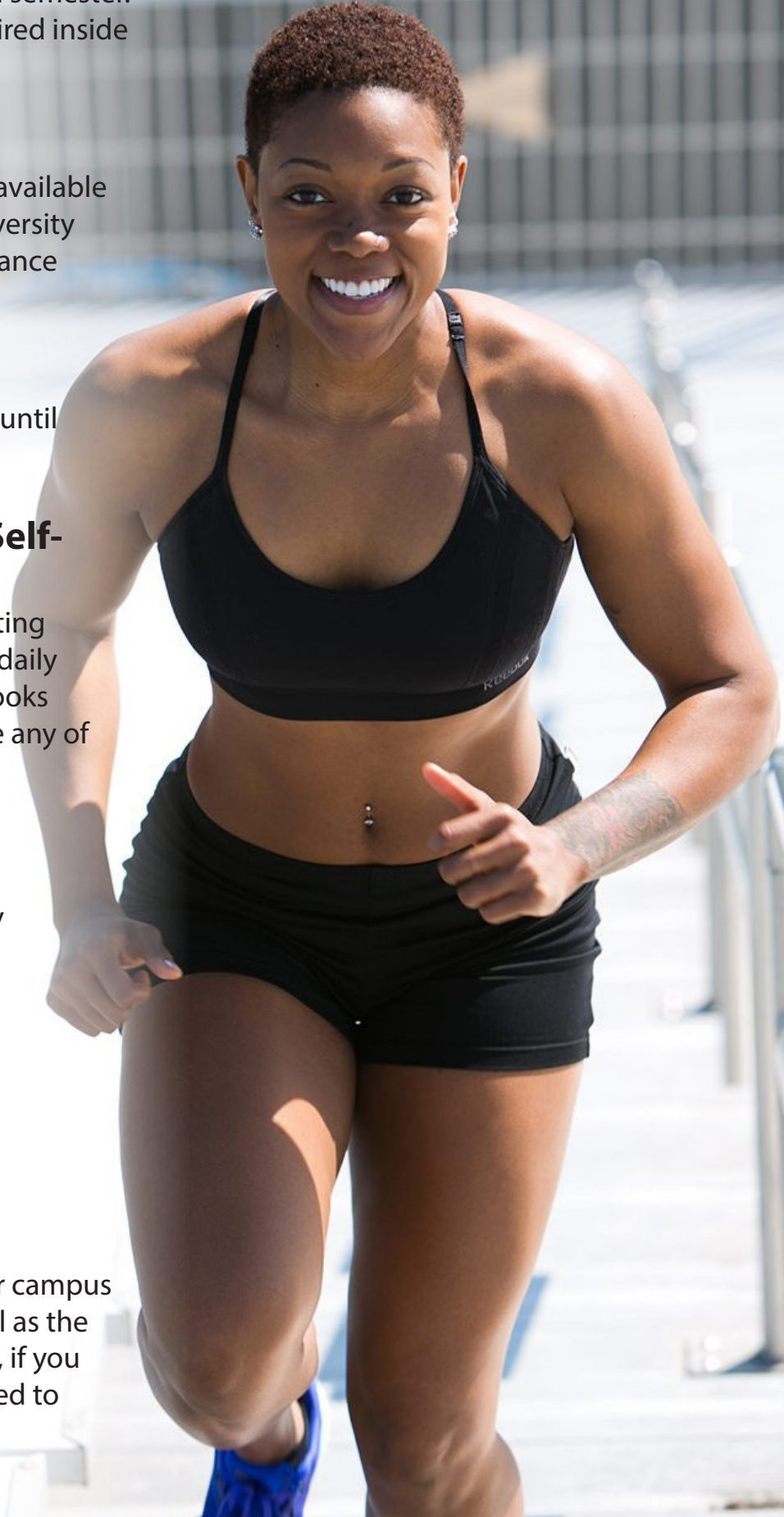
The Fitness Center will remain closed until further notice.

Symptom Monitoring and Self-Reporting

Symptom Monitoring and Self-Reporting
Students are encouraged to conduct daily symptom monitoring and contact Brooks Health Center should they experience any of the following symptoms:

- Fever
- Dry Cough
- Tiredness
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chest Pain or pressure
- Feeling achy all over
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste and smell
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat

We must all do our part to protect our campus community's health and safety as well as the health and safety of others. Therefore, if you are experiencing any symptoms related to



COVID-19 while on campus, do not attend classes, please contact Brooks Health Center immediately. After an examination has been completed (in person or via telephone), an assessment will be conducted to determine services needed. Students may be referred to the Regional Medical Center for further assessment and evaluation. Follow-up from the health center will keep appropriate university personnel abreast of the student's status. According to the CDC guidelines, individuals with certain conditions may have a higher risk of COVID-19 infection. Those conditions may include the following:

- People with HIV
- Asthma (moderate-to-severe)
- Chronic lung disease
- Diabetes
- Serious heart conditions
- Chronic kidney disease or receiving dialysis treatment
- Severe obesity
- Being immunocompromised

Students who have been diagnosed with any of these health conditions should notify Brooks Health Center (803-536-7055) prior to their return to campus to coordinate a plan of care. Should additional services be required, a referral will be made to the Office of Disability Services.



